

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 46. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims, in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-34 (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) A bone fixation device for retaining at least two bones in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first member connectable to a first bone;

a second member connectable to a second bone and interconnected with the first member, wherein the first and second members are movable relative to one another across a range of motion;

an adjustor member that transitions between a first state wherein the adjustor member is fixed relative to the first member and movable relative to the second member, and a second state wherein the adjustor member is fixed relative to the second member and movable relative to the first member, wherein the range of motion between the first member and second member spans a first, limited distance when the adjustor member is in the first state, and wherein the range of motion between the first member and second member spans a second, limited distance when the adjustor member is in the second state.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the range of motion enables compression of the bones.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein each of the members has a projection portion and a receiving channel for complementary placement

of the projection portion of one member into the receiving channel of another member.

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the first member has at least one projection portion and the second member has at least one receiving channel to receive the projection portion of first member.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the projection portion has a generally elongated body with cross-section shape selected from the shapes of a triangle, truncated triangle, rectangle, modified rectangle, and a trapezoid.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the adjustor member comprises an elongated element and a plurality of fasteners for selectively fixing to the first and second members.

41. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the first and second members each has at least one opening to accommodate a bone screw for securing the first and second members onto the bones.

42. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein at least a portion of the device is constructed of a biologically adaptable or biologically compatible material.

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein each of the first and second members has curved surfaces to conform to the surface contours of the bones.

44. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 35, wherein the first distance is less than the second distance.

45. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 35, wherein the range of motion is linear.

46. (Currently Amended) A device as in claim 35, wherein the first member includes a distraction screw coupler that permits the first member ~~or the first vertebra~~ to be coupled to a distraction screw while the first member is connected to a first bone, wherein the first bone is the first vertebra.

47. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 35, wherein the distraction screw coupler comprises a borehole sized to receive therethrough a distraction screw.

48. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 47, wherein at least a portion of the borehole can mate with a portion of the distraction screw.

49. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 35, wherein the first member includes a modular coupler that can mate with a second bone fixation device.

50. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 35, wherein the range of motion is curved.

51. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 35, wherein the first and second bones are vertebrae.

52. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the range of motion enables subsidence of the bones.